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Sen. Brown's resolution urging Congress and president to address steel price and availability passes Senate

LANSING – A resolution by state Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township, urging Congress and President George W. Bush to step up efforts to stabilize the US steel market passed the Senate on Wednesday.

“Due to volume exports of scrap steel to overseas markets, domestic price spikes and the difficulty in obtaining steel for the US market, Michigan manufacturers have been severely challenged,” Brown said. “While availability of the raw material is not as acute as it was earlier this year, the situation is far from being corrected. It does us little good to ship volume sales of US scrap steel to China or South Korea, if it imperils the ability of our own domestic manufacturers to obtain the steel necessary to fill their own orders.”

A group of area manufacturers met with Brown earlier this year to outline the problem and call for solutions. Brown introduced Senate Resolution 241 to urge the Congress and president to take action.

“The ultimate solution rests in the hands of our federal government,” Brown said. “What I can do is be a voice for Michigan manufacturers and help advocate their cause. I have spoken directly with my own Congressman Fred Upton about this resolution and I have his support.”

In addition to the resolution, Brown arranged for the Michigan Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor to take testimony from Michigan manufacturers affected by the price and availability of steel. Brown has also spoken with the legislative liaisons at Ford Motor Company and General Motors about working through this difficulty cooperatively with Michigan auto parts suppliers.

Brown's resolution will be delivered to President George W. Bush and all members of the US Congress.

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